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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

August 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

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Volume 8 Number 8

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Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

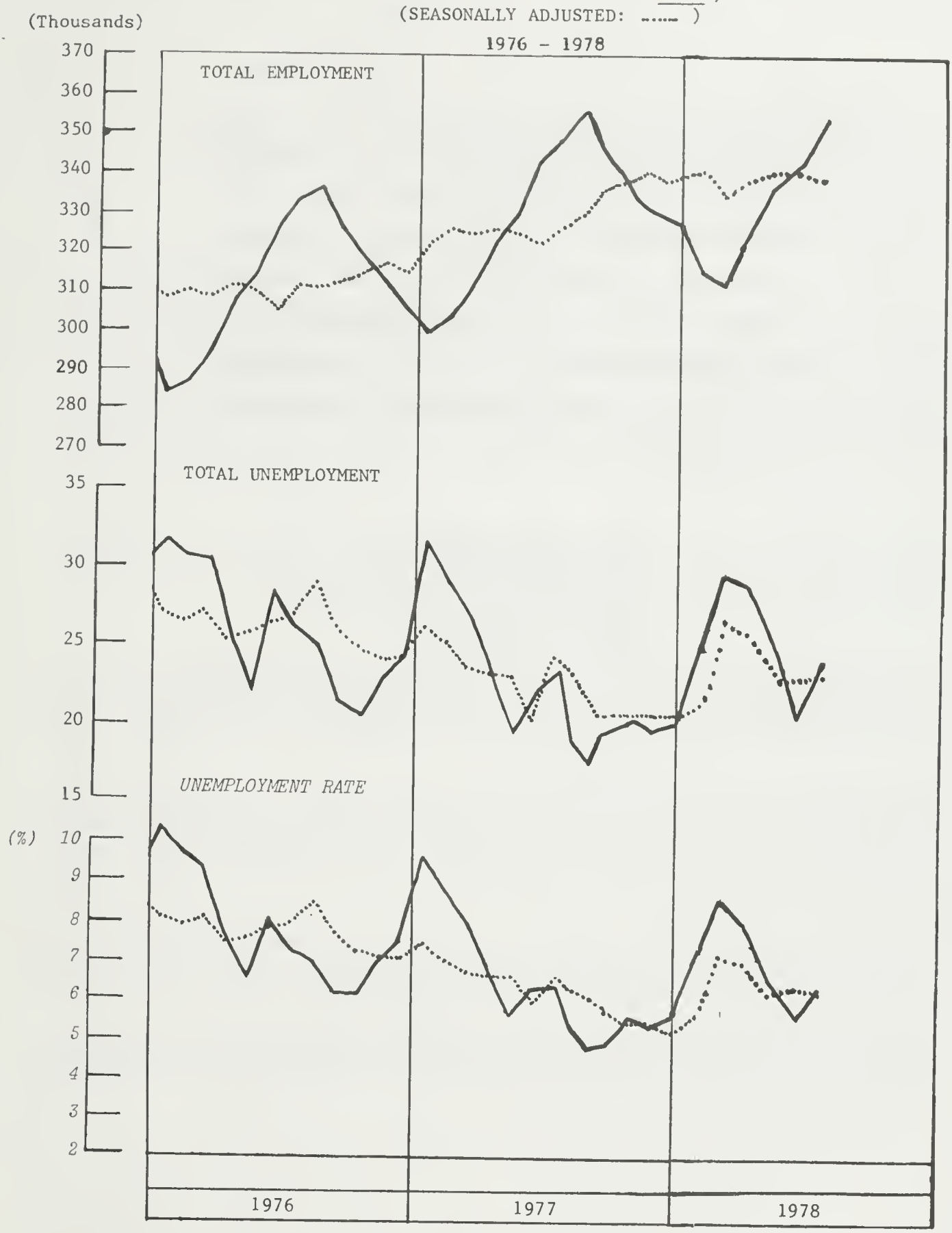
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Several influences are the dominant factors in the continuing upward trend in Montana's economic condition. The normal peaks should be reached in August and perhaps some conclusions can be drawn then. July's indicators paint a picture of overall gains, but not without some areas of pessimism that would enter into any predictions.

The civilian labor force for the state now stands at 382,800 a 5% gain over last year's July figure. The labor force is 3500 larger than June's as the seasonal peak has still not been reached. The employed portion of the labor force numbers 360,400, an increase of 6100 persons in the last month. The jobless rate of 5.8% for July is a notable improvement over the 6.6% registered in June, and also below last July's 6.0% calculation. Only 22,000 individuals were unemployed in July compared with an estimated 25,000 in June. The higher June figure is somewhat normal with the influx created when school ends, so some improvement is to be expected, but the gains do appear to be above the usual rate.

New business firms are forming at a 14.5% faster clip this year, as 3233 have been registered so far in 1978. July was an exceptional month as 464 formations occurred in the state. The growth is concentrated in the wholesale and retail, contract construction, and service sectors with only mining showing less new firms then a year ago.

The airline strike affecting the whole state has been settled and perhaps some of the tourist related losses will be recovered before the season ends. One of the significant benefits of the strike may be in the expansion of other airline service to the state. New carriers appear to be interested in Montana destinations and other existing airlines are hoping for route expansion.

Agriculture seems to be having a good year but the total evaluation cannot be made until the harvest ends. Weather, as usual, is having impact on all agricultural sectors. Hail damage has been extremely high throughout the state, in fact some sources predict record hail losses. The rains of earlier summer have resulted in excellent yields, but some wheat is testing lower in protein and therefore lower in market price.

Real spendable income was up slightly for the month of June, as inflation kept a significant increase in gross wage from having much effect. The composite index dipped slightly in the same month but no discernible trend is obvious for the year.

In summary the Montana economy is at its seasonal peak and in excellent condition, however there are some negative indicators which continue to moderate predictions of growth for the state.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of persons registered in the civilian labor force dropped back to the same total as in May, 35,100, from June's 36,400. Last year in July 35,800 were listed, 2.0% more than this July. Employment was also down from both last month and last year. This month's figure of 32,700 was 800 fewer than June's 33,500, and 1,100 less than the 33,800 in July 1977, a drop of 3.3%.

Unemployment was higher in June due partly to school service workers off for the summer, and more students registering for work, but there was a welcome drop this month to 2,400 for the 2,900 last month. However, a year ago in July 2,000 were listed, 400 less than this July. The unemployment rate at 6.8% was also down from June's 7.9% but up from last July's 5.6%.

The downturn in the economic situation for this labor market area may be partly explained by the layoffs at the missile upgrading project, and at the local refinery. This situation may improve as the employees on the missile project are expected to be recalled in three or four months, and the refinery workers are eligible for assistance under the Trade Act of 1974.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

One of the industries taking advantage of the favorable weather is outdoor construction which is progressing rapidly with many projects. Bids were submitted on the renovation of a building for the elderly and handicapped, part of an old hospital complex. The Great Falls Housing Authority found the apparent low bid was $381,600, some 100,000 less than estimated. Work on the project is expected to begin this fall. Building permits issued in July totaled 108 with a valuation of $2,094,224. This included 16 residential permits for 50 units, valued at almost $1.4 million.

The labor disputes involving a major airlines, and City of Great Falls versus Great Falls Police Department, have both been settled and the employees are either back at work or will be soon.

The number of new businesses in the area dropped from 55 last month to 37 this month, but only one less than the 38 tallied last July. The business formations during the period January through July totaled 291, still fewer than the 309 listed for the same period in 1977.

Wholesale-Retail Trade and Services continue to show the effects of the summer tourist season. Business appeared to be good, with a steady demand for employees.

The agricultural sector is having a good year in spite of some adverse weather conditions. Rains in June and early July were beneficial to range and crops and raised the grain yield, but lowered the protein content of the winter wheat which means a lower price. Spring wheat harvest is not far enough along to judge quality yet, but quantity is up on both winter and spring wheat. The usual shortage of railroad grain cars may cause some problems. Haying was slowed somewhat with occasional showers, but there is a good crop this year.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the Billings SMSA fell to 4.5% from June's 5.2% rate, but is still higher than last July's rate of 4.1%. The number of unemployed individuals dropped by 400 during the month and is now at 2,400. This is definitely an improvement but still greater than last year's count of 2,200 jobless persons in July.

The civilian labor force grew slightly during the month to 52,900 but is still not at last July's level of 53,100. Employment also grew by 700 to reach a figure of 50,500, but again this statistic in below last year's similar figure of 50,900. From all indications these data should not be intrepreted too strictly as being below expectations, as it is beleived to be affected adversely be the Current Population Survey (CPS) techniques being utilized. Any competent analysis of economic conditions in Billings should, of course, consider many other indicators in addition to this labor force data.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A 25% increase has been noted in new business firms for the year-to-date when compared with last year. The month of July accounted for 78 of the new firms, a 50% increase over last July's figure. The new business tally is but one of many influential indicators, but such strong growth over a seven month period is certainly a good sign.

Many changes are taking place in downtown Billings as businesses open, move, expand or close almost daily, The hotel/convention center is underway as excavation and foundation work have commenced. A remodling project is taking place to accommodate a bank to be re-located when the parking facility is constructed, while another bank has announced plans for a substantial addition. Several retail establishments have also opened in the area in recent weeks.

Interviews are being conducted for about 150 jobs to be filled when another major department store opens soon. Other businesses are opening almost daily in both West Billings and Billings Heights.

The "cement famine" in the whole region has caused some small buildings to be delayed in the vicinity but most major projects have continued on schedule. Ready-mix concerns in the area have set priorities favoring regular customers for the duration of the shortage. Reports indicate that the problem may be more acute in outlying areas than in Billings itself.

Agriculture is entering the harvest season with all indicators pointing toward a good year. There have been reports that the wheat crop is excellent, however, the abnormal rains earlier in the summer have caused the protein content in the grain to be lower than normal. Predictions for the sugar beet crop are only good and the future of the industry is in doubt, both here and nationally. Policy decisions on imports made by Congress will probably decide the fate of domestic sugar beet production. During the peak of the harvest and production, the Billings processing facility employs upwards of 600 persons, so any industry change would affect the Billings labor market.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The economic situation in this labor market area has not improved greatly but the unemployment rate dropped from 9.8% in June to 8.6% this month, July. Very little change was noted from July 1977's 8.5%. However, the labor force shows 36,700 this month, as compared with 38,200 last month and 37,900 a year ago July. Employment also was less with 34,500 last month, 34,700 last year and only 33,600 this July. The lower unemployment rate probably reflects summer hiring, but with the labor force dropping more than employment the unemployment may continue the downward trend. The Anaconda-Butte labor market area currently has the highest unemployment rate in the state but the actual number of unemployed is not the highest, with 3,100 persons, while last year in July there were 3,200 and June 1978 showed 3,700.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In spite of the high unemployment rate, there are several indications that this area is not stagnating. Residential house building has been keeping several construction companies busy all summer in Butte, and building permits were issued for homes and a new restaurant. In addition, plans are being made for a $1.5 million, 60 unit housing project for low-income persons, and for expansion, including room additions and banquet facilities of two motels. Dillon is experiencing a shortage of cement for construction projects, as the local ready-mix plant is behind on orders due to shut-down of other cement producers. Work is progressing on repairs and additions to the college, a new office building, an annex to a local garage, and housing and other buildings as material is available. An addition to the prison in Deer Lodge, a motel with store and gas station near Philipsburg and several major construction projects in Anaconda are providing work for area residents.

The labor dispute between the Butte Teamsters Union and nine distribution firms was settled August 2, and most of the smelter workers laid off in May have now been recalled. Youth Employment Service has been able to place many young people this summer. The Montana Energy Research and Development Institute which is expanding by 30 employees in October, has received a grant of $92 million to work on the Magnetohydrodynamics process. On the adverse side, many workers were laid off in the Philipsburg area when a major timber industry employer closed his business, and there is a possibility of a railroad's shops closing sometime in the future.

Another plus for the economy is this area is the fact that there were 33 new businesses started in July compared with 28 last month and 21 in July 1977. The total-to-date from January is 221, while the same period in 1977 had 207 starts. New business formations should be considered in the economic picture and not as a single indicator.

Haying season is continuing with some interference from occasional rain. Other general farm and ranch work including fencing and irrigating are keeping up the demand for experienced workers.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Bozeman LMA jobless rate dropped to 3.7% in July, an excellent indicator when compared to last July's rate of 5.0%. The actual drop in the number of unemployed persons for the year was 100, to a level of 1,100 the same as was estimated for June.

The surprising growth has been in the total labor force and employment figure. The civilian labor force is now at 30,000 individuals, a 21.5% increase over last July's comparable statistic. Employment grew by 23% during the same period to a level of 28,900. The employment figure is also 1,000 higher than June's figure, while the labor force jumped by a similar 1,000. All of these statistics point toward a excellent outlook for the Bozeman economy with apparent growth and even more rapid increases in employment.

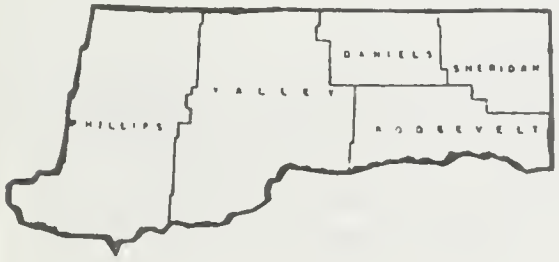
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business firms are being formed at a 20% higher rate than last year, as the Bozeman LMA year-to-date total through July was 332. The monthly total for July was 48, compared to 37 in July of 1977. Gallatin County is accounting for most of the businesses, while Park County is behind last year's pace.

The construction industry had many projects in various stages of development in the area. Activity has commenced on the large shopping mall in Bozeman as more major stores announced plans for facilities there. An expansion of a medical clinic is on schedule, but a life insurance company headquarters job has been shutdown by the cement shortage in the region. The shortage is also affecting other projects of all sizes as ready-mix firms are forced to supply only priority customers until supplies of cement increase. In Livingston, plans have been announced for another shopping center and a supper club.

Normal upswings have occurred in some industries in the area. Lumber mills are not running as high as could be expected, but employment is up. A labor dispute involving 28 workers at a Livingston mill was in progress during the period. Agriculture is generally reporting a good season although some isolated hailstorms were noted. Local Job Service offices have reported a demand for non-union carpenters in home construction and also for seasonal service workers in Yellowstone Park.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the LMA continued its shrinking pattern as it fell by 300 when compared to last July's figure and is now at a level of 17,800. It is, however, 300 larger than June's statistic and employment is also 300 larger for the month at 16,900. Improvement did occur in the unemployment, especially when compared to the rate one year ago. This July's rate of 5.2% is a substantial gain over last July's calculation of 6.4%. The number of jobless individuals stayed the same

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

as it was in June, at 900. This was an improvment over the figure of a year ago, which was at 1,200. The positive side of the local economic situation is then the improving unemployment rate, while some negative input may be inferred from the smaller labor force.

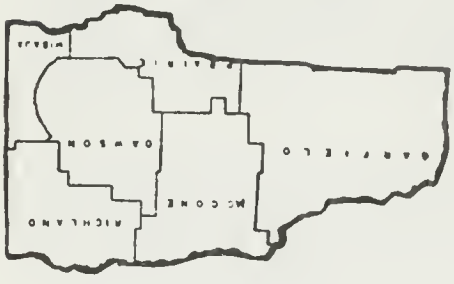
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The construction season continues throughout the area with projects in all stages of completion. A governmental agency has begun leveling land for it's office building site west of Glasgow. Plans for two new motels in Glasgow were announced, and the water pipeline project is nearing completion. Work is continuing on several projects in the Wolf Point area including community buildings, cultural centers, and housing. A hospital addition is underway in Plentywood.

New business formations for July were 20, and the area's year-to-date total is now 82 compared to last year's 80. The notable annual increase has been in Roosevelt County as that specific area has 42% more new firms than it did a year ago. New business formations are, of course, just one indicator of local economic conditions.

Agricultural activity is picking up in the area as the harvest period commences. Most of the winter wheat has been harvested with the spring wheat starting, and both crops appear to be excellent. In a development related to agriculture, the packing plant just reopened at Glasgow and is expanding its work force as the demand for its production grows.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In this six-county labor market area the labor force rose 200 to 15,600 in July from June and 400 from July 1977. Employment was also up 200 from June, to 15,100, which compared favorably with last July's 14,600.

For the three months, May, June and July, 500 individuals have been unemployed, 100 less than July a year ago. The unemployment rate rose slightly this month to 3.4% from 3.3% in June and 3.0% for May. This is a favorable drop, however, from the 3.9% recorded in July last year. Although the rate was one of two that rose this month, the 3.4% was the lowest in the state's labor market areas, and considerable lower than the statewide figure of 5.8%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

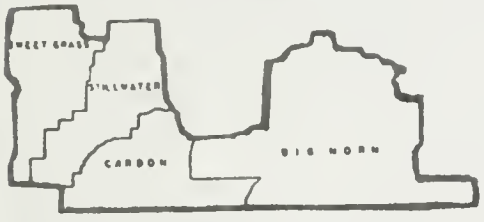
Twenty new businesses started this month in the area, nine fewer than last month but eight more than last July. Year-to-date totals were 130 this year and 96 in 1977. One large store has expanded their sporting goods department in Glendive, and a major restaurant chain is expected to start construction of a facility by fall. This same restaurant chain has already started construction in a shopping center at Sidney. A new shoe store recently opened in Fairview. The trade sector appears to be having a busy season with some new employees needed for business expansions and openings.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

The cement shortage is causing some problems in the area but most construction projects are on schedule. A bottling plant is nearly completed and work continues on new residences, both family homes and apartment complexes. Road construction near Culbertson is almost ended. Oil exploration continued and activity in this field remained stable with some shortages of experienced rotary drill and seismograph workers, but not much hiring or laying off.

The weather has been quite favorable this month in the Glendive labor market area. Winter wheat is about 75% harvested and spring wheat harvest is starting. Hot, dry weather has helped ripen the winter wheat and provides more favorable combining conditions. Grain crops are expected to be of high quality, but with a lower protein content than anticipated. Irrigation has been needed more this month with the warmer weather, and haying is continuing with little interruption from rain. All other crops are doing well, except those damaged by hail, although dry beans were slowed by the earlier cool, wet weather.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force estimates for July show slight changes from last month and last year, but taken together they indicate only the stability of the area's economy with no noticeable trends away from this. The civilian labor force estimate is at 13,200 up 300 from June's figure and 200 above last July's 13,000 statistic. Employment shows similar trends as its level of 12,000 is 4% above June's figure and 1.6% higher than last July's. The jobless rate of 4.8% is extremely consistent with last July's similar calculation of 4.9%. The number of unemployed persons is now 600, the same as it also was last July. The 600 is a sizeable reduction from June's estimate of 800 unemployed but the June figure may be of questionable value as May's statistic was also 600. The figures are not absolutes so the analysis of trends is more indicative of economic conditions.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations for the year are 47% higher than last year's similar figure, with 97 new firms through July. The growth is centered in Big Horn and Carbon counties but is consistent throughout the LMA. Caution should be used in interpreting this single indicator, but such a large increase over the period is notable.

Hardin continues to grow in all areas of it's economy as the coal development expands in the area and agriculture continues on its strong stable course. Future policies on leasing of tribal lands and federal energy policies will have inpact on the future growth patterns. Agriculture appears to be having a good year in the area with excellent harvests predicted. The sugar beet sector is a notable exception and recent reports are predicting the possible extinction of the industry. National policy on sugar, especially regarding imports, will determine the reliability of such predictions. The sugar beet industry, both growing and processing, has contracted greatly in the LMA in the past 10 years so the prediction is not without merit based on past experience.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

One hundred more people entered the labor force this month making a total of 13,600. This is a drop of 200, however, from July 1977 when there were 13,800 noted. Employment followed the same trend, 12,900 this month, 12,700 in June but 13,100 in July a year ago, a 1.5% drop.

The unemployed rolls showed 700 persons in July, 100 fewer than in June when there were 800 listed. July 1977 had the same number as this month. The unemployment rate fell to 5.2% in July from 6.2% in June but was slightly higher than the 5.1% recorded in July 1977. The slight variations in the labor force, employment and unemployment and the current rate which is lower than the statewide 5.8%, indicate a fairly stable economy in this three-county area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Wholesale and retail trade and service industries continue to be the most active in non-agricultural employment opportunities. Oilfield exploration has been steady, slowed at times by occasional rainy spells.

In the Havre labor market area 17 new businesses were formed in July, compared with 14 in June and 13 in July 1977. The cumulative total from January through July, however, is 96, slightly less than the 100 noted in the same period for 1977. By far the largest number of new businesses were in Hill County, the most populous of the three counties.

Some hiring is taking place in the construction industry, to take advantage of the outdoor season. A contract has been let to build a 26-mile natural gas pipeline for a major utility company. The line will run from a gas field north of Chinook to a storage area east of Havre, and is expected to be completed in two months.

The main activities in the agricultural sector are summer fallowing and grain harvesting. Winter wheat combining is well along but spring planted grains have been slowed by the earlier wet weather.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in this labor market area increased by 300 this month from 28,200 in June to 28,500. This month's total was 10% above July 1977 of 25,900. Employment also showed a gain of 300 from last month to 26,900 in July, and a 10.2% gain from last year's 24,400.

Unemployment, however, did not change appreciably, tallying 1,600 for both June and July, and 1,500 last year. The rate dropped from 5.6% in June and 5.8% in July 1977 to this month's 5.5%. Not too much variation in these statistics appears during the summer, as most of the major industries are settled into the seasonal routine.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Highway projects east and west of Helena are progressing with the dryer weather, and should be oiled before winter. The old Federal building is to be remodeled for city-county offices when plans are accepted. Other remodeling and expansions are keeping full-time and temporary construction workers busy. A major utility sub-station will be built this year at Augusta, at an expected cost of $40,814. The new facility is needed for increased irrigation pumping in the area, and more general usage of electricity.

Lewis and Clark county had the most new Business Formations in the three-county area with 26 of the 30 recorded for July. The total new businesses were 19 fewer than last month but 6 more than last year. For the first seven months of 1978, however, three were 253 compared with 220 for the same period in 1977.

The labor dispute between the City of Helena and the city workers was settled and all are back on the job. Openings for new employees are appearing with expansions of retail businesses and restaurants. As usual, there is demand for stenographers and clerical workers. This is the busy season for the service industry with tourists visiting various points of interest thoughout the state, and especially the Capitol city and western scenic areas.

Farm and ranch work is also at a seasonal peak with second cutting of hay underway, and some calls for hay crew workers. More irrigating was needed during the hot, dry weather, and grain harvesting will be starting, although this area does not have a large grain acreage. Hail damage has not been as severe as in some other parts of the state, and the outlook is good for a successful summer for the agricultural sector.

Kalispell LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for the Kalispell area fell to 7.8% from last month's 9.0%. This rate is, of course, still high when compared to the statewide calculation of 5.8%, but is a notable improvement for this particular area. For instance, the rate in July of 1977 was 9.0%, so the improvement is rather apparent. the number of jobless persons is now 3,000, down from 3,500 in June and 3,400 in May of this year; however, the figure is not as low as last July's 2,900.

The civilian labor force for the LMA is 16.3% larger than it was last July, at a level of 38,500. This figure is slightly lower than June's 38,700 as some seasonal reduction occured. The number of employed persons is up to 35,500 from last month's 35,200 and significant in the fact that it increased while the labor force declined. Employment for the area is 17.5% higher than the same month of 1977. All of these indicators point to good conditions in the area's economy, however, the extreme seasonality of employment in this particular LMA makes predictions almost impossible.

Kalispell LMA (cont.)

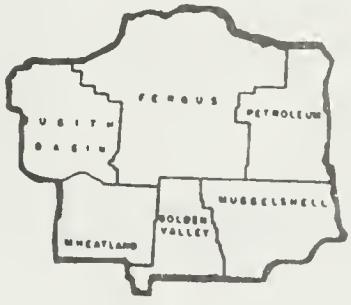
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity abounds in all sections of the LMA at this time. Major contracts have just been awarded for a new high school gym in Whitefish and a powerhouse project at Libby Dam. A motel and several restaurants are underway in Kalispell, and plans have been made for a restaurant and a supper club in Polson. The courthouse addition in Libby is progressing on schedule at this time. Retail and service establishment facilities and housing construction are in evidence throughout the area.

New business firms for the LMA numbered 51 in July to bring the year-to-date total to 406, compared to 344 at this time last year. The monthly total was, however, lower than last July's figure with the drop centered in Flathead County's statistic.

Seasonal factors are increasing the activity in several sectors of the economy. The cherry harvest is now complete with the crop running below average. About 800 pickers were utilized with another 175-200 workers employed in the warehousing. The tourist traffic has been heavy with retail and service establishments benefiting most. Lumber mills are operating at capacity but timber harvesting has slowed somewhat. Job Service offices have noted a demand for hay hands and tree plantation workers at different times. In an adverse note, a large mining and processing concern in Libby will shutdown for repairs with approximately 200 employees to be laid off for at least a week.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force statistics for the LMA show a seasonal expansion for the month, but also indicate a slight contraction when compared to last year. The civilian labor force rose by 200 for the month to 11,400 but this figure is 3.4% less than last July's similar statistic. In the same view, employment was up 100 from June but down by 500 from last July to a level of 10,800.

Unemployment grew by 100 during the month and is now at 600 persons. The figure is also up from last July's 500. Consequently, the jobless rate for the area rose to 5.1%, considerably above last year's rate of 4.4% and also an increase from June's rate of 4.8%. The rate is, however, better than the statewide one, so the changes should not immediately cause great concern.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations during the past month numbered 14, bringing the year-to-date total to 71, or one more than last July's 70 figure. A cursory examination show that most areas are about even with last year's total, but that Fergus County is slightly lower. This indicator should be used in connection with other factors, but does show the stability of the area's economy.

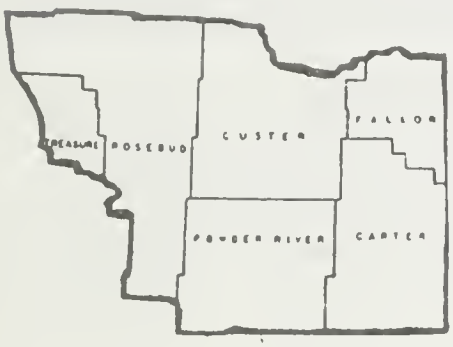
The southern portion of the LMA, and in particular Harlowton, has been watching the receivership proceedings of the area's transcontinental railroad with interest. It now appears that the line may be sold to another railroad and the impact on about 150 local paychecks is not known at this time. The sale would at least, avert a complete shutdown and loss of the jobs. The situation certainly warrants careful observation because of the impact on the town's economic condition.

LEWISTOWN LMA (cont.)

Missile work in the area has been temporarily suspended by the Air Force and the contractors due to problems with manufactured materials. The delay is expected to last for at least a couple more months, and some layoffs have occured.

Seasonal upswings are happening in several industries in the area as the good weather peaks. Agriculture is having a good year, although some commodity prices have been fluctuating. The retail and service sectors are responding to the tourist trade and other influences in a positive manner. Construction continues throughout the area on a variety of structures for civic, business, and private use.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The usual stability of the Miles City labor force statistics was never more obvious than in July. The civilian labor force is at 15,800, the same as last year's same month and only 100 higher than June's figure. Identical patterns exist in the employment tally, as 15,000 persons are employed in the area the same as last July and up 100 from June of 1978. The number of jobless persons is even more consistent as the figure of 700 is estimated for this July, last July, and last month. The slight differences do cause some movement in unemployments rates, from this month's 4.5% which is better than June's 4.7% but not quite as good as last July's 4.4%. The differences in jobless rates are so small that statistical technique could negate any differences. The Miles City LMA could best be described as an area with a stable economy, and an excellent low unemployment rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A major hailstorm struck the area in the past month causing $3-4 million of damage in the immediate vicinity of Miles City. The storm is having an impact on the economy as hundreds of insurance claims must be settled and repair work done on house roofs, cars, etc. In somewhat of a paradox, the extremely damaging storm is then actually increasing economic activity in the area.

Agriculture is having a fine year in most portions of the LMA with some pockets of hail loss. The rains earlier in the summer have produced excellant crops as the harvest commences. Beef prices have been variable on local markets with the national import policy a major factor.

Construction activity is continuing as the summer season comes to a conclusion. Projects such as a shopping center, the community college addition, and housing are in various stages of development. The cement shortage is causing shutdowns and delays on some projects in the area.

New business firms formed in the LMA since the first of the year number 90 compared to 83 for the same period last year. July's total of 16 was slightly higher than last July's tally of 14. This indicator, when related to other significant factors, confirms the stable growth pattern of the Miles City area.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for July is calculated at 6.6% a notable improvement over last month's 7.8% rate, and July of 1977's figure of 7.6%. The number of unemployed persons dropped by 300 to a level of 3,600 during the month.

These improvements were magnified further by gains in the size of the civilian labor force and its employed portion. The civilian labor force for July is estimated at 53,600 a 3,500 increase from June, and 15.5% higher than last July's statistic. The employment figure grew by an even better annual rate of 16.6% to a level of 50,000. Although the 6.6% unemployment rate is still higher than the statewide rate, it and the rest of the labor force data are good indicators for this traditionally high unemployment area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

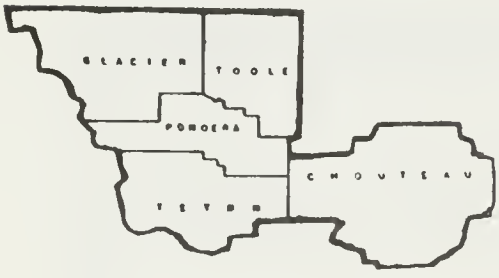
Construction activity is in full swing in the area as good weather conditions continue. Major projects underway in Missoula include the second phase of the shopping mall, the new airport terminal, a city hall addition, and highway projects. The housing industry continues to build as demand for all types is still heavy. Plans for a shopping center south of Hamilton were announced and construction should begin soon, with completion scheduled for next summer. Other projects in the Hamilton area are nearing completion as the summer season peaks.

The grand opening of the new large regional shopping mall south of Missoula was held earlier this month. 50 of the 63 establishments are open, with the rest to open soon. The large addition already under construction should add more businesses by next summer.

Seasonal influences are having their normal impact in raising employment in some industries in the area. Lumber and wood products concerns are harvesting timber and turning out finished goods at peak levels as good weather continues. The fact that the forests are getting dryer may cause some future cutbacks if they are closed due to fire danger. Agriculture is having an excellent year as activities dependent on the harvest are now beginning.

New business formations are up 14% from last year, for the first seven months of the year. July's figure was 69 compared to 56 for July of 1977.

SHELBY - CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force gained 400 persons this month, from 19,700 in June to 20,100. Employment stands at 19,000, up 500 from June's 18,500. This growth is not as great as last month's, from May to June, but still indicates a good seasonal upswing. A steady gain was noted for the year also, as in July, 1977 the labor force was 19,200 and employment 18,100, both 900 persons fewer than this year's totals for July.

Unemployment has a slight drop of 100 from June's 1,200 to this month's 1,100, but is the

same as a year ago in July. The unemployment rates show more variation, 5.5% for July down from 6.1% in June, and 5.7% in July 1977. The July rate of 5.5% compares favorably with the 5,8% statewide.

The busy outdoor activity season is continuing with all industries concerned taking advantage of the summer weather. Construction on a senior citizens center, civic center, and grain elevator is nearing completion in Cut Bank and there has been some demand for workers. Several new homes and some commerical buildings are also progressing, although the cement shortage is causing some problems. A shopping center is expected to be built, starting in September. In Shelby, workers have been in demand to set up steel buildings, and there has been work for carpenters and general laborers in other building projects.

Wholesale-retail trade and service industries are experiencing the usual busy season with need for extra help in restaurants, motels, and stores. Three businesses in Cut Bank are moving into the new shopping center. There appears to be a steady gain of new businesses in the area with 19 noted for this month, some in each one of the five counties. This compares with 16 last month and 10 a year ago. The cumulative total, January through July is 155 while 126 were recorded for the same period in 1977.

Two other major industries which are concerned with weather conditions, oil field drilling and exploration and agriculture are providing work for area people. The Shelby-Cut Bank labor market area is in Montana's grain belt and combining has been underway with some interruptions from rain. Hail damage was extensive in some parts of this area, but otherwise a good yield is expected. Haying and general farm and ranch work are contributing to the demand for workers.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

JULY 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	227	74	2154
CETA-CEP	113	48	246
CETA-INST.	17	32	246
CETA-OJT	41	50	181
JOB CORPS	31	33	400
PSE TITLE II	63	37	382
PSE TITLE VI	113	62	679
PSE TITLE VI-A	205	71	771
CETA-AWE	51	30	91
STIP	--	2	16
HIRE II	22	1	22

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	JUNE 1978	*Percent Change From:* MAY 1978	JUNE 1977
All Items	195.3	*1.0*	*7.4*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

JULY 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*12.5*
Female	*54.8*
Youth	*8.7*
Over 45	*22.6*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Disputes 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	*7.9*	*8.8*	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	*7.4*	*8.7*	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	*7.2*	*8.1*	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	*5.9*	*7.4*	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	*5.0*	*6.7*	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	*6.2*	*8.0*	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	*5.5*	*7.8*	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	*5.3*	*7.6*	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	*4.9*	*7.4*	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	*5.1*	*7.2*	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	*5.9*	*7.4*	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	*6.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	*6.1*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	*7.9*	*8.3*	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	*7.9*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	*6.7*	*6.9*	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	*6.1*	*6.4*	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	*6.3*	*7.5*	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	*6.0*	*7.0*	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	*5.7*	*6.8*	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	*5.5*	*6.6*	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	*5.4*	*6.3*	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	*6.1*	*6.0*	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	*8.1*	*7.0*	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	*8.8*	*6.9*	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	*8.3*	*6.6*	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	*6.5*	*5.8*	*
May	361.7	341.1	305.1	36.0	20.6	*5.7*	*5.5*	*
June	379.3	354.3	313.2	41.1	25.0	*6.6*	*6.2*	.4
July	382.8	360.4	316.4	44.0	22.4	*5.8*	*6.3*	.2
August	*391.9*	*371.1*	*324.1*	*47.0*	*20.8*	*5.3*		.1
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	*6.5*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	*6.1*	*6.5*	*
May	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*5.7*	*
June	36.4	33.5	31.9	1.6	2.9	*7.9*	*6.6*	*
July	35.1	32.7	31.0	1.7	2.4	*6.8*	*5.8*	*
August	*36.1*	*33.8*	*31.9*	*1.9*	*2.3*	*6.3*	*5.3*	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	*4.8*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.5*	*
May	52.6	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.3	*4.3*	*5.7*	*
June	52.6	49.8	47.9	1.9	2.8	*5.2*	*6.6*	*
July	52.9	50.5	48.3	2.0	2.4	*4.5*	*5.8*	*
August	*53.8*	*51.5*	*49.3*	*2.2*	*2.3*	*4.2*	*5.3*	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

July 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	382.8	379.3	364.4	3.5	18.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	360.4	354.3	342.4	6.1	18.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	44.0	41.1	46.5	2.9	-2.5
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	22.4	25.0	22.0	-2.6	.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	5.8	6.6	6.0	-.8	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	6.4	6.4	6.6	0	-.2
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*279.0*	*277.0*	*269.5*	*2.0*	*9.5*
MANUFACTURING	*24.6*	*24.3*	*24.1*	*.3*	*.5*
Durable Goods	*16.0*	*15.9*	*15.5*	*.1*	*.5*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*9.1*	*9.1*	*10.0*	*0*	*-.9*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.5*	*3.4*	*2.3*	*.1*	*1.2*
Other Durable Goods	*3.4*	*3.4*	*3.2*	*0*	*.2*
Nondurable Goods	*8.6*	*8.4*	*8.6*	*.2*	*0*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.7*	*3.5*	*4.0*	*.2*	*-.3*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*0*	*.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.1*	*1.1*	*0*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.5*	*0*	*.2*
MINING	*7.2*	*7.2*	*4.9*	*0*	*2.3*
10 Metal Mining	*2.2*	*2.2*	*.7*	*0*	*1.5*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.5*	*0*	*.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.3*	*3.3*	*2.7*	*0*	*.6*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	17.5	17.3	17.7	.2	-.2
15 General Building Contractors	6.5	6.1	6.6	.4	-.1
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	5.2	5.4	5.6	-.2	-.4
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.8	5.8	5.5	0	.3
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	21.9	21.9	20.7	0	1.2
40 Railroad Transportation	7.0	7.0	6.4	0	.6
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.2	6.2	6.1	0	.1
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.7	8.7	8.2	0	.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	71.8	70.2	68.8	1.6	3.0
Wholesale Trade	18.4	18.4	16.0	0	2.4
Retail Trade	53.4	51.8	52.8	1.6	.6
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.7	8.5	8.3	.2	.4
54 Food Stores	7.8	7.7	7.3	.1	.5
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.7	7.7	7.8	0	-.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	20.0	18.8	20.3	1.2	-.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.2	9.1	9.1	.1	.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.0	12.0	11.5	0	.5
SERVICES	48.7	48.6	51.3	.1	-2.6
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.6	6.6	7.4	0	-.8
72 Personal Services	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	16.2	16.2	15.8	0	.4
Other Services	23.1	23.0	25.4	.1	-2.3
GOVERNMENT	75.3	75.5	70.5	-.2	4.8
91 Federal Government	16.0	15.5	15.6	-.2	.4
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.1	8.3	8.4	-.2	-.3
92 Other State Government	11.5	11.3	11.7	.2	-.2
93 Local Education	24.3	25.1	20.2	-.8	4.1
93 Other Local Government	15.4	15.3	14.6	.1	.8

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

July 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	35.1	36.4	35.8	-1.3	-.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.7	33.5	33.8	-.8	-1.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.7	1.6	1.8	.1	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	2.9	2.0	-.5	.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*6.8*	*7.9*	*5.6*	*-1.1*	*1.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/] .	*6.9*	*7.3*	*5.6*	*-.4*	*1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*30.2*	*30.8*	*29.6*	*-.6*	*.6*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.3*	*0*	*.4*
Contract Construction	*2.1*	*2.0*	*2.2*	*.1*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	*1.9*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*-.1*	*.1*
Trade	*10.3*	*10.3*	*10.1*	*0*	*.2*
Wholesale Trade	*3.1*	*3.1*	*2.8*	*0*	*.3*
Retail Trade	*7.2*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*0*	*-.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.4*	*6.5*	*6.5*	*-.1*	*-.1*
Government	*5.9*	*6.4*	*5.8*	*-.5*	*.1*
Federal Government	*2.3*	*2.1*	*2.2*	*.2*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*3.6*	*4.3*	*3.6*	*-.7*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

July 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	52.9	52.6	53.1	.3	-.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	50.5	49.8	50.9	.7	-.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.0	1.9	2.1	.1	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	2.8	2.2	-.4	.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.5*	*5.2*	*4.1*	*-.7*	*.4*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.4*	*4.7*	*4.0*	*-.3*	*.4*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*44.9*	*44.0*	*43.4*	*.9*	*1.5*
Manufacturing	*3.6*	*3.4*	*3.6*	*.2*	*0*
Contract Construction	*3.3*	*3.1*	*3.0*	*.2*	*.3*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.8*	*3.8*	*3.8*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*14.9*	*14.7*	*14.0*	*.2*	*.9*
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.6*	*4.6*	*0*	*1.0*
Retail Trade	*9.3*	*9.1*	*9.4*	*.2*	*-.1*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*0*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*8.9*	*8.6*	*8.4*	*.3*	*.5*
Government	*8.2*	*8.2*	*8.6*	*0*	*-.4*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*2.0*	*0*	*-.5*
State and Local Government	*6.7*	*6.7*	*6.6*	*0*	*.1*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	May 1978	June 1978	July 1978	May 1978	June 1978	July 1978	May 1978	June 1978	July 1978	May 1978	June 1978	July 1978
STATEWIDE	361.7	379.3	382.8	341.1	354.3	360.4	20.6	25.0	22.4	*5.7*	*6.6*	*5.8*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	36.4	35.1	33.0	33.5	32.7	2.1	2.9	2.4	*6.0*	*7.9*	*6.8*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.6	52.6	52.9	50.3	49.8	50.5	2.3	2.8	2.4	*4.3*	*5.2*	*4.5*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	274.0	290.3	294.8	257.8	271.0	277.2	16.2	19.3	17.6	*5.9*	*6.7*	*6.0*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.6	38.2	36.7	32.8	34.5	33.6	2.8	3.7	3.1	*7.9*	*9.8*	*8.6*
BOZEMAN	26.6	29.0	30.0	25.5	27.9	28.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	*4.2*	*3.8*	*3.7*
GLASGOW	17.4	17.5	17.8	16.7	16.6	16.9	.7	.9	.9	*4.3*	*5.4*	*5.2*
GLENDIVE	14.8	15.4	15.6	14.3	14.9	15.1	.5	.5	.5	*3.0*	*3.3*	*3.4*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.1	12.9	13.2	11.5	12.1	12.6	.6	.8	.6	*5.1*	*6.2*	*4.8*
HAVRE	13.3	13.5	13.6	12.7	12.7	12.9	.6	.8	.7	*4.7*	*6.2*	*5.2*
HELENA	26.3	28.2	28.5	25.0	26.6	26.9	1.3	1.6	1.6	*5.0*	*5.6*	*5.5*
KALISPELL	37.0	38.7	38.5	33.6	35.2	35.5	3.4	3.5	3.0	*9.3*	*9.0*	*7.8*
LEWISTOWN	10.9	11.2	11.4	10.4	10.7	10.8	.5	.5	.6	*4.4*	*4.8*	*5.1*
MILES CITY	15.2	15.7	15.8	14.5	15.0	15.1	.7	.7	.7	*4.4*	*4.7*	*4.5*
MISSOULA	46.9	50.1	53.6	43.7	46.2	50.0	3.2	3.9	3.6	*6.8*	*7.8*	*6.6*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	18.0	19.7	20.1	17.2	18.5	19.0	.8	1.2	1.1	*4.6*	*6.1*	*5.5*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table VIII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 1978	July 1977	% Change 1977-1978	July 1978	July 1977	% Change 1977-1978	July 1978	July 1977	Net Change 1977-1978	July 1978	July 1978	Net Change 1977-1978
STATEWIDE	382.8	364.4	*5.0*	360.4	342.4	*5.3*	22.4	22.0	.4	*5.8*	*6.0*	*-.2*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	35.8	*-2.0*	32.7	33.8	*-3.3*	2.4	2.0	.4	*6.8*	*5.6*	*1.2*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.9	53.1	*-.4*	50.5	50.9	*-.8*	2.4	2.2	.2	*4.5*	*4.1*	*.4*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	294.8	275.5	*7.0*	277.2	257.7	*7.6*	17.6	17.8	-.2	*6.0*	*6.5*	*-.5*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	36.7	37.9	*-3.2*	33.6	34.7	*-3.2*	3.1	3.2	-.1	*8.6*	*8.5*	*.1*
BOZEMAN	30.0	24.7	*21.5*	28.9	23.5	*23.0*	1.1	1.2	-.1	*3.7*	*5.0*	*-1.3*
GLASGOW	17.8	18.6	*-4.3*	16.9	17.4	*-2.9*	.9	1.2	-.3	*5.2*	*6.4*	*-1.2*
GLENDIVE	15.6	15.2	*2.6*	15.1	14.6	*3.4*	.5	.6	-.1	*3.4*	*3.9*	*-.5*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.2	13.0	*1.5*	12.6	12.4	*1.6*	.6	.6	0	*4.8*	*4.9*	*-.1*
HAVRE	13.6	13.8	*-1.4*	12.9	13.1	*-1.5*	.7	.7	0	*5.2*	*5.1*	*.1*
HELENA	28.5	25.9	*10.0*	26.9	24.4	*10.2*	1.6	1.5	.1	*5.5*	*5.8*	*-.3*
KALISPELL	38.5	33.1	*16.3*	35.5	30.2	*17.5*	3.0	2.9	.1	*7.8*	*8.7*	*-.9*
LEWISTOWN	11.4	11.8	*-3.4*	10.8	11.3	*-4.4*	.6	.5	.1	*5.1*	*4.4*	*.7*
MILES CITY	15.8	15.8	*0*	15.1	15.1	*0*	.7	.7	0	*4.5*	*4.4*	*.1*
MISSOULA	53.6	46.4	*15.5*	50.0	42.9	*16.6*	3.6	3.5	.1	*6.6*	*7.6*	*-1.0*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.1	19.2	*4.7*	19.0	18.1	*5.0*	1.1	1.1	0	*5.5*	*5.7*	*-.2*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE 1A A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

JULY 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	382805	360443	22362	5.8
CASCADE	35076	32682	2394	6.8
YELLOWSTONE	52880	50515	2365	4.5
BEAVERHEAD	4749	4524	225	4.7
BIG HORN	5470	5145	325	5.9
BLAINE	3215	2907	308	9.6
BROADWATER	1669	1588	81	4.9
CARBON	3776	3608	168	4.4
CARTER	1196	1105	91	7.6
CHOUTEAU	3356	3244	112	3.3
CUSTER	6205	6008	197	3.2
DANIELS	1600	1554	46	2.9
DAWSON	5930	5658	272	4.6
DEER LODGE	6564	5944	620	9.4
FALLON	2310	2222	88	3.8
FERGUS	5676	5431	245	4.3
FLATHEAD	22492	20778	1714	7.6
GALLATIN	22405	21603	802	3.6
GARFIELD	1010	978	32	3.2
GLACIER	6936	6238	698	10.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	510	498	12	2.4
GRANITE	1388	1267	121	8.7
HILL	9168	8816	352	3.8
JEFFERSON	2456	2259	197	8.0
JUDITH BASIN	1523	1359	164	10.8
LAKE	6647	6137	510	5.9
LEWIS AND CLARK	24359	23068	1291	5.3
LIBERTY	1240	1193	47	3.8
LINCOLN	7335	6545	790	10.8
MC CONE	1514	1474	40	2.6
MADISON	3167	3065	102	3.2
MEAGHER	1161	1127	34	2.9
MINERAL	1888	1767	121	6.4
MISSOULA	39081	36636	2445	6.3
MUSSELSHELL	1805	1741	64	3.5
PARK	6447	6168	279	4.3
PETROLEUM	360	354	6	1.7
PHILLIPS	2981	2867	114	3.8
PONDERA	3795	3669	126	3.3
POWDER RIVER	1268	1235	33	2.6
POWELL	3852	3639	213	5.5
PRAIRIE	1048	1034	14	1.3
RAVALLI	8346	7663	683	8.2
RICHLAND	5296	5154	142	2.7
ROOSEVELT	5262	4879	383	7.3
ROSEBUD	4230	3946	284	6.7
SANDERS	4308	3992	316	7.3
SHERIDAN	2786	2728	58	2.1
SILVER BOW	16981	15119	1862	11.0
STILLWATER	2046	1986	60	2.9
SWEET GRASS	1888	1824	64	3.4
TETON	3062	2981	84	2.7
TOOLE	2989	2895	94	3.1
TREASURE	570	552	18	3.2
VALLEY	5202	4879	323	6.2
WHEATLAND	1520	1431	89	5.9
WIBAUX	814	790	24	2.9

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

JUNE 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	379311	354300	25011	6.6
CASCADE	36351	33465	2886	7.9
YELLOWSTONE	52558	49803	2755	5.2
BEAVERHEAD	4538	4369	169	3.7
BIG HORN	5218	4800	418	8.0
BLAINE	3156	2864	292	9.3
BROADWATER	1587	1530	57	3.6
CARBON	3816	3609	207	5.4
CARTER	1144	1057	87	7.6
CHOUTEAU	3272	3145	127	3.9
CUSTER	6209	5959	250	4.0
DANIELS	1574	1520	54	3.4
DAWSON	5873	5609	264	4.5
DEER LODGE	6766	5976	790	11.7
FALLON	2337	2268	69	3.0
FERGUS	5671	5429	242	4.3
FLATHEAD	22778	20857	1921	8.4
GALLATIN	21377	20583	794	3.7
GARFIELD	955	932	23	2.4
GLACIER	6757	6053	704	10.4
GOLDEN VALLEY	496	481	15	3.0
GRANITE	1291	1129	162	12.5
HILL	9121	8638	483	5.3
JEFFERSON	2482	2302	180	7.3
JUDITH BASIN	1463	1320	143	9.8
LAKE	8263	7680	583	7.1
LEWIS AND CLARK	24139	22794	1345	5.6
LIBERTY	1207	1145	62	5.1
LINCOLN	7675	6704	971	12.7
MC CONE	1468	1425	43	2.9
MADISON	3102	2991	111	3.6
MEAGHER	1058	1020	38	3.6
MINERAL	1793	1638	155	8.6
MISSOULA	36395	33611	2784	7.6
MUSSELSHELL	1819	1747	72	4.0
PARK	6524	6255	269	4.1
PETROLEUM	344	340	4	1.2
PHILLIPS	2836	2729	107	3.8
PONDERA	3722	3586	136	3.7
POWDER RIVER	1246	1209	37	3.0
POWELL	3857	3576	281	7.3
PRAIRIE	1047	1027	20	1.9
RAVALLI	7570	6906	664	8.8
RICHLAND	5286	5148	138	2.6
ROOSEVELT	5259	4892	367	7.0
ROSEBUD	4276	4005	271	6.3
SANDERS	4383	4098	285	6.5
SHERIDAN	2692	2624	68	2.5
SILVER BOW	18708	16473	2235	11.9
STILLWATER	2158	2029	129	6.0
SWEET GRASS	1725	1683	42	2.4
TETON	2992	2878	114	3.8
TOOLE	2982	2857	125	4.2
TREASURE	550	527	23	4.2
VALLEY	5201	4848	353	6.8
WHEATLAND	1460	1397	63	4.3
WIBAUX	784	760	24	3.1

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

July 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	July 1978 1/	June 1978	July 1977	June 1978	July 1977	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						July 1978		June 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	117.6	118.3	109.2	-.7	8.4	279.0	42.1	277.0	42.7
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	3.0	0	-.2	24.6	11.4	24.3	11.5
Mining	.4	.4	.3	0	.1	7.2	5.6	7.2	5.6
Contract Construction	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	.1	17.5	6.9	17.3	6.9
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.0	3.9	3.9	.1	.1	21.9	18.3	21.9	17.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	32.1	32.0	30.2	.1	1.9	71.8	44.7	70.2	45.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.1	8.1	7.2	0	.9	12.0	67.5	12.0	67.5
Services	33.9	33.9	32.6	0	1.3	48.7	69.6	48.6	69.8
Government 2/	35.1	36.0	30.9	-.9	4.2	75.3	46.6	75.5	47.7

1/ *Current month preliminary.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmark.* *Establishment Series began January 1974.*

2/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.*

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government[1]	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	117.4	117.5	118.3	117.6
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	31.4	31.6	32.0	32.1
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.4	33.9	33.9
Government[1].....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.6	36.3	36.0	35.1

[1] *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark.*
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*

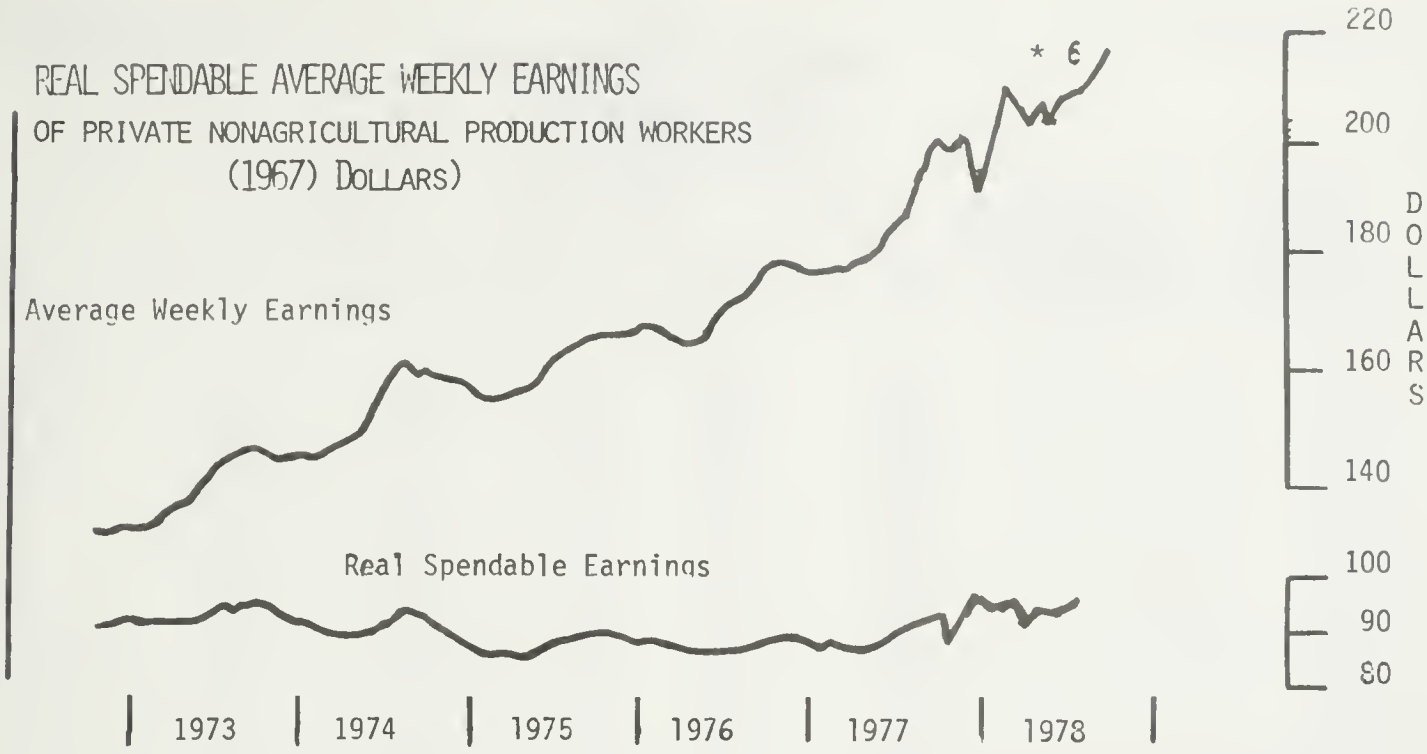
Composite Index of SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS 1972 = 100	
1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Mixed performances by the component indicators in Montana's composite caused it to dip slightly again in June. Positive influence was exerted by a good increase in the accession rate, a small gain in manufacturing hours, and a slight decrease in the layoff rate. These gains were more than offset by an increase in initial claims, a slight dip in manufacturing employment and a moderation of the upward trend in building permits. The variations in these individual indicators caused a net downward movement in a composite, but again there is not enough of an apparent trend to base any prediction on.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$216.58	$208.58	$185.26
Taxes Withheld	34.92	32.62	25.69
Spendable Earnings	181.66	175.96	159.58
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	88.63	84.92	71.81
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	93.03	91.04	87.77

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May	208.58	91.04
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Earnings levels rose during June, continuing the erratic pattern of these indicators during the first six months of 1978. Real spendable earnings were up almost to the peak achieved in February, but did not nearly reflect the sharp increase in gross wages. Adjustments for taxes took away some of the gain, but again the rising prices as reflected in the CPI had the greatest negative effect on real wages. Only the magnitude of the positive gross wage change kept the real spendable index on an upward course. Inflation is still then the key factor affecting the future performance of this indicator.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.0	*
May	361.9	338.9	305.9	33.0	23.0	6.4	6.1	*
June	360.3	337.1	304.0	33.1	23.2	6.4	5.7	.4
July	362.8	339.7	306.1	33.6	23.1	6.4	6.2	.2
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks. Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	6.5	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
June	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.3	6.4	*
July	34.1	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.7	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.4	*
June	51.0	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
July	51.5	49.2	47.7	1.5	2.3	4.4	6.4	
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

July 1978

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$216.36	$216.58	$190.97	36.0	36.4	35.3	$ 6.01	$ 5.95	$ 5.41
MANUFACTURING	327.13	343.54	260.94	41.2	44.5	40.9	7.94	7.72	6.38
Durable Goods	319.14	345.28	269.51	40.5	44.9	41.4	7.88	7.69	6.51
Primary Metal Industries	338.80	335.79	286.86	38.5	37.9	37.4	8.80	8.86	7.67
Nondurable Goods	349.06	338.86	241.59	43.2	43.5	39.8	8.08	7.79	6.07
Food and Kindred Products	281.16	270.95	202.78	44.7	44.2	42.6	6.29	6.13	4.76
MINING	379.61	373.57	336.58	41.9	41.6	41.4	9.06	8.98	8.13
Metal Mining	421.08	384.38	332.88	39.8	36.4	38.0	10.58	10.56	8.76
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	382.24	386.63	379.44	35.1	34.8	38.6	10.89	11.11	9.33
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	301.91	300.24	307.94	41.7	41.7	42.3	7.24	7.20	7.28
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	292.76	289.07	270.08	43.5	43.6	42.6	6.73	6.63	6.34
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	175.62	173.06	158.35	34.1	34.0	34.2	5.15	5.09	4.63
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	148.32	146.17	130.67	36.0	37.1	36.5	4.12	3.94	3.58
SERVICES	132.99	133.53	113.02	33.0	33.3	29.9	4.03	4.01	3.78

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

July 1978

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977	June 1978	May 1978	June 1977
MANUFACTURING	6.5	3.4	5.8	5.4	3.0	4.8	3.6	4.4	2.9	1.7	1.6	1.9	.8	1.2	.4
Durable Goods	6.4	3.4	5.8	5.5	2.8	4.6	3.5	4.9	2.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	.8	.7	.4
Primary Metal Industries	5.8	1.4	5.9	4.4	0	3.3	3.3	12.0	2.0	.6	.4	.6	1.1	2.7	.5
Nondurable Goods	6.6	3.3	6.0	5.3	3.3	5.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	2.1	1.4	2.3	.8	2.1	.3
MINING	11.5	4.1	3.3	4.8	3.0	2.5	3.5	4.3	2.6	2.5	4.0	1.6	*	.1	*
Metal Mining	3.7	3.5	2.5	.2	.1	.4	1.9	1.3	1.4	.3	.4	.4	.2	.2	*

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	July 1978	July 1977	Year to Date July 1978	Year to Date July 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	23	21	229	182
MINING	14	9	58	87
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	93	82	617	514
MANUFACTURING	18	13	149	125
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	6	19	105	104
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	111	94	815	692
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	38	34	292	265
SERVICES	159	92	931	804
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	2	4	37	51
STATE TOTAL	464	368	3233	2824

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS July 1978	July 1977	Year to Date 1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	464	368	3233	2824
GREAT FALLS SMSA	37	38	291	309
BILLINGS SMSA	78	52	511	409
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	33	21	221	207
Beaverhead	6	3	37	25
Deer Lodge	2	2	13	17
Granite	1	1	8	6
Madison	2	3	27	24
Powell	2	3	20	16
Silver Bow	20	9	116	119
BOZEMAN LMA	48	37	332	276
Gallatin	41	25	269	209
Meagher	2	1	12	4
Park	5	11	51	63
GLASGOW LMA	22	12	82	80
Daniels	0	3	3	6
Phillips	1	0	9	7
Roosevelt	5	0	27	19
Sheridan	6	4	16	18
Valley	10	5	27	30
GLENDIVE LMA	20	12	130	96
Dawson	7	3	36	28
Garfield	0	1	8	4
McCone	1	0	5	5
Prairie	0	0	7	10
Richland	12	8	71	47
Wibaux	0	0	3	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	12	9	97	66
Big Horn	5	3	31	17
Carbon	3	3	31	24
Stillwater	2	2	18	17
Sweet Grass	2	1	17	8
HAVRE LMA	17	13	96	100
Blaine	2	2	18	13
Hill	15	11	63	64
Liberty	0	0	15	23
HELENA LMA	30	24	253	220
Broadwater	2	1	12	12
Jefferson	2	2	28	15
Lewis and Clark	26	21	213	193
KALISPELL LMA	51	56	406	344
Flathead	30	40	282	241
Lake	11	7	65	57
Lincoln	10	9	59	46
LEWISTOWN LMA	12	14	71	70
Fergus	6	9	45	47
Golden Valley	0	1	2	3
Judith Basin	1	0	4	4
Musselshell	5	4	14	14
Petroleum	0	0	2	0
Wheatland	0	0	4	2
MILES CITY LMA	16	14	90	83
Carter	1	0	7	5
Custer	10	8	41	50
Fallon	2	1	12	5
Powder River	2	0	6	2
Rosebud	1	5	23	18
Treasure	0	0	1	3
MISSOULA LMA	69	56	498	438
Mineral	2	3	12	9
Missoula	48	41	371	329
Ravalli	18	9	88	70
Sanders	1	3	27	30
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	19	10	155	126
Chouteau	2	0	21	11
Glacier	6	2	38	25
Pondera	5	2	40	38
Teton	4	2	19	11
Toole	2	4	37	41

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETA5-1330

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JULY 1976

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	107	6,238.70
BIGHORN	205	13,934.50
BLAINE	174	11,315.00
BROADWATER	54	2,617.00
CARBON	165	12,557.56
CARTER	14	1,020.00
CASCADE	2,231	153,129.10
CHOUTEAU	38	5,144.00
CUSTER	55	4,491.85
DANIELS	39	2,567.00
DAWSON	72	5,015.00
DEER LODGE	916	74,265.94
FALLON	21	1,762.00
FERGUS	80	6,648.70
FLATHEAD	1,249	90,205.62
GALLATIN	688	51,855.04
GARFIELD	16	384.00
GLACIER	635	43,946.68
GOLDEN VALLEY	5	248.00
GRANITE	177	13,374.42
HILL	262	16,015.82
JEFFERSON	185	14,314.90
JUDITH BASIN	26	2,005.30
LAKE	459	29,824.55
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,231	91,418.09
LIBERTY	14	928.00
LINCOLN	730	49,551.07
MCCONE	6	402.00
MADISON	45	3,596.00
MEAGHER	19	1,327.00
MINERAL	111	7,741.48
MISSOULA	2,413	171,860.70
MUSSELSHELL	36	2,251.00
PARK	221	13,330.44
PETROLEUM	3	171.00
PHILLIPS	74	5,729.00
PONDERA	70	4,370.00
POWDER RIVER	7	638.00
POWELL	170	13,385.11
PRAIRIE	4	416.00
RAVALLI	550	35,095.32
RICHLAND	53	3,623.08
ROOSEVELT	364	23,255.39
ROSEBUD	239	19,925.85
SANDERS	193	11,219.42
SHERIDAN	42	2,327.00
SILVER BOW	2,947	218,383.22
STILLWATER	82	5,479.00
SWEET GRASS	24	1,543.00
TETON	57	3,578.54
TOOLE	65	4,951.91
TREASURE	9	554.00
VALLEY	203	16,310.34
WHEATLAND	23	1,850.00
WIBAUX	20	1,207.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,533	190,135.14
Total for State	20, 563	1,562,852.08
Interstate	950	82,645.62
Total	21,513	1,645,497.70

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1978 THRU JULY 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,697	128,811.99
BIGHORN	2,535	205,824.10
BLAINE	1,945	135,943.53
BROADWATER	639	49,384.74
CARBON	2,076	163,088.88
CARTER	143	12,296.00
CASCADE	23,495	1,788,040.40
CHOUTEAU	748	47,323.20
CUSTER	2,993	241,781.89
DANIELS	411	29,546.76
DAWSON	1,985	158,618.38
DEER LODGE	8,080	677,922.73
FALLON	671	48,029.04
FERGUS	3,249	250,421.20
FLATHEAD	19,320	1,488,569.53
GALLATIN	9,469	727,568.85
GARFIELD	168	12,797.63
GLACIER	5,150	392,550.15
GOLDEN VALLEY	111	6,807.00
GRANITE	1,095	83,716.30
HILL	3,944	297,644.84
JEFFERSON	1,767	149,995.06
JUDITH BASIN	787	67,195.53
LAKE	5,031	365,094.94
LEWIS AND CLARK	13,768	1,096,839.38
LIBERTY	387	30,585.00
LINCOLN	10,233	812,333.91
MCCONE	438	35,908.30
MADISON	842	54,737.36
MEAGHER	565	43,618.44
MINERAL	1,316	105,802.73
MISSOULA	23,504	1,730,602.74
MUSSELSHELL	951	76,175.68
PARK	3,718	264,123.42
PETROLEUM	55	3,478.00
PHILLIPS	1,187	86,730.25
PONDERA	1,252	98,955.75
POWDER RIVER	156	15,075.00
POWELL	2,330	180,969.31
PRAIRIE	425	38,040.00
RAVALLI	6,025	424,435.68
RICHLAND	1,250	96,134.20
ROOSEVELT	2,196	149,439.45
ROSEBUD	2,569	207,980.16
SANDERS	3,830	302,524.25
SHERIDAN	539	36,780.04
SILVER BOW	20,770	1,650,603.21
STILLWATER	1,057	85,267.28
SWEET GRASS	305	22,903.00
TETON	1,043	78,222.40
TOOLE	1,336	104,415.73
TREASURE	201	19,591.30
VALLEY	3,437	250,849.97
WHEATLAND	367	30,319.00
WIBAUX	147	11,388.00
YELLOWSTONE	28,037	2,251,323.91
Total for State	233,280	18,185,316.20
Interstate	13,119	1,427,262.99
Total	246,399	19,612,579.19

Table XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1]	28,032	29,147	-1,115	-3.8
Continued Claims[1]	305,919	280,475	25,444	9.1
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	246,540	251,049	-4,509	-1.8
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$19,612,617	$19,122,557	$49,006	2.6
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2]	$84.89	$79.39	$5.50	6.9

MONTHLY

	July 1978	June 1978	July 1978	Change From Year Ago Net	Percent
Initial Claims[1]	3,347	3,720	4,306	-869	-20.2
Continued Claims[1]	27,765	32,172	29,926	-2,161	-7.2
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	21,513	24,726	21,778	-265	-1.2
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$1,645,498	$2,037,217	$1,517,364	$128,134	8.4
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2]	$79.78	$92.45	$72.30	$7.48	10.3
Trust Fund Balance	$825,753*	$3,010,381*	-$2,731,340**	$3,557,093	130.2

1/ *Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.*
2/ *Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".*
* *Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $10,484,089.
** *Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to* $ 9,284,089.

The initial claims total dropped from last month, and was over 20% below the July, 1977 figure. The year-to-date initial claims total continued to lag behind the 1977 total. The continued claims total again continued its decline as shown in the statistics drop from June to July. The year-to-date figure is once again outpacing last year's total.

Both the number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid declined from June to July. The year-to-date total for the number of pays is running behind last year's figure, with the amount of benefits paid slightly ahead of the 1977 year-to-date total.

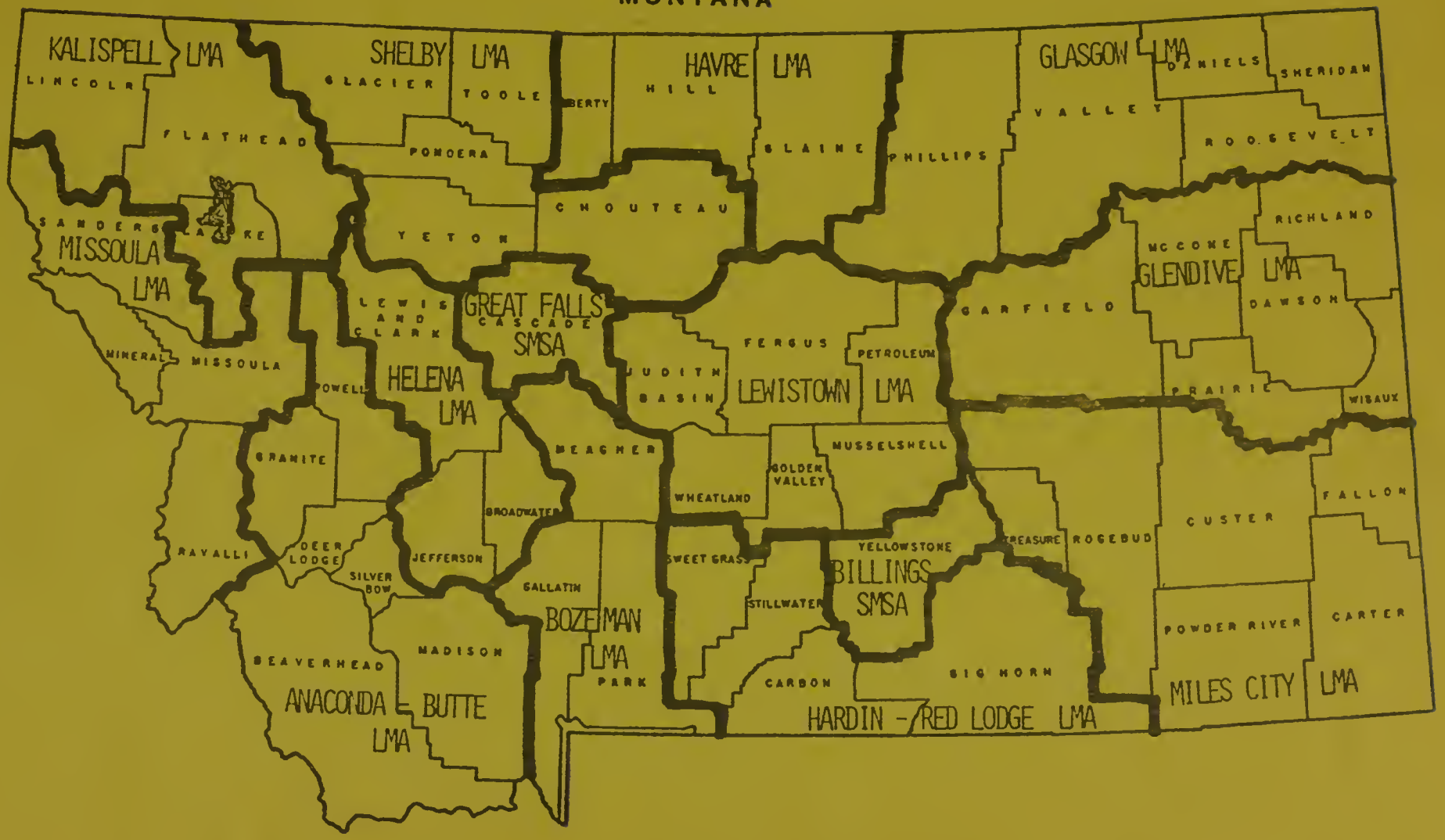
The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) dipped from June to July, but is almost $7.50 above the July, 1977 average check. The year-to-date AWBA is $5.50 ahead of the total at this point last year.

The trust fund balance ended the month on the positive side, mainly due to second quarter contributions flowing in from covered employers. This figure compares favorably with the trust fund balance of July, 1977, when it stood at a negative $2.7 million.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.